

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A disk drive configured to be accessible in fail-over via buses associated with plural host interfaces, the disk drive comprising:  
a disk storage medium;  
5 a first bus connection;  
a second bus connection;  
a switch for selectively connecting the disk storage medium to at least one of the first and second bus connections; and  
an interface controller for detecting whether at least one of the first and  
10 second bus connections is active and for controlling the switch in response.

2. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein the first and second bus connections are separate initiator ports of the disk drive, the initiator ports being instantiated by the interface controller in response to detecting which of the first and  
15 second bus connections is active.

3. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein the switch includes a multiplexer.

4. A disk drive according to claim 3, wherein the first and second bus connections and the multiplexer are external to the disk drive.

5. A disk drive according to claim 3, wherein the multiplexer is an analog device.

6. A disk drive according to claim 3, wherein the multiplexer is a digital device.

7. A disk drive according to claim 3, wherein the multiplexer is an optical device.

5 8. A disk drive according to claim 3, wherein the first and second bus connections and the multiplexer are integral to the disk drive.

9. A disk drive according to claim 3, wherein the first and second bus connections and the multiplexer are integral to a disk drive VLSI controller chip.

10 10. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein the first and second bus connections are serial advanced technology attachment (SATA) bus connections.

11. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein the first and second bus connections are serial attached SCSI (SAS) bus connections.

15 12. A disk drive according to claim 1, wherein the first and second bus connections are Ethernet connections.

20 13. A method for implementing a fail-over feature for a disk drive having an interface controller and having access to plural host interfaces, the interface controller being configured to execute the steps of:

determining when a first one of the plural host interfaces is in a failed state;  
and

25 initiating a selection of a second one of the plural host interfaces in response to the step of determining.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein first and second bus connections are separate initiator ports of the disk drive, the method comprising:

controlling a switch used to selectively connect a disk storage medium of the disk drive to at least one of the first and second bus connections during the step of initiating.

5           15.     A method according to claim 14, comprising:  
instantiating one of the initiator ports in response to detecting which of the first and second bus connections is active.

10           16.     A method according to claim 14, wherein the first and second bus connections are serial advanced technology attachment (SATA) bus connections.

            17.     A method according to claim 14, wherein the first and second bus connections are Ethernet connections.

15           18.     A method according to claim 14, wherein the step of determining comprises:  
monitoring the first one of the plural host interfaces for a first signal; and  
sending a second signal to a second one of the plural host interfaces in an absence of the first signal.

20           19.     A method according to claim 18, wherein the first signal is produced at regular time intervals determined by the first one of the plural host interfaces.

25           20.     A method according to claim 18, wherein the second signal is a disk-drive-initiated interrupt signal.